[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : These companies are under the Ministry of Steel. The Minister is here. Let him make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, I cannot compel the Minister to make a statement. If he wants to react, let him react. I do not want to compel him. I cannot compel him sitting here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Minister of Steel is here. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Sir, I fail to understand as to why you are not giving even single opportunity to us to speak. There should be some system. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not allowed. It will not go on record. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, it is a very important aspect. There is unanimity among the Members of Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with due regards to the Chair, I would like to say that senior Members are given chance when they just raise their hands but Members like me give notices every day before 10 O'clock but even then we do not get chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Every day 40 to 50 notices are received from the Members and all of them cannot be given chance to speak. It is done according to the decision of the hon. Speaker. It is not like that as you are saying. Now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Minister of Steel is here and he can assure the House ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Acharia, I have told you that you are not to speak. Now I have called upon Shri P.C. Thomas to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. How can I compel the Minister of react?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I would like to raise a very important point regarding the maximum limit of election expenses on which there was a near unanimity amongst the Members. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that in the all party meeting as well as in the discussions which ensued in Parliament, there was a near unanimity that the maximum limit of election expenses should be enhanced. It is a reality that election expenses are there. There was a decision in the all party meeting regarding this matter that the Government would try to bring a legislation at the earliest. However, that has not been brought.

Now, recently the Chief Election Commission has also accused Parliament saying that Parliament is resonsible for not bringing out some of the salient reforms in elections which have been agreed upon, which have directed and which have been found to be very important. Now, I would say that it is not actually Parliament, it is for the Government to bring forward a Bill in this regard. Parliament is ready to approve some of the very important electoral reforms which are to be brought about immediately.

I would urge upon the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to kindly respond to this. In the all party meeting there was unanimity on this issue, there was an undertaking by the Government that since some of the changes were so important, it would be brought before the U.P. elections. The reforms concerning the State funding of elections for parties as well as candidates are one of those on which there was some kind of unanimity. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister may respont to this because this is a very important matter on which all the hon. Members are also interestd.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition was raising this point some time back saying that the issue of electoral reforms is something which have been bought to the notice of the House but till now that very important legislation is yet to come before the House. I would bring to the notice of the House as well as to the Minister that that very important legislation should ensue and some kind of an undertaking or a statement be made in this regard in this House today itself.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : The employees of Doordarshan and AIR are on indefinite strike. Will it not be discussed here?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Sir, on this electoral reforms, the first round of all party meeting was held and whatever issues on which there was unanimity, have been implemented. In the second round, the Government has requested all the political parties to give their suggestions on electoral reforms.

About the second instalment reforms, the report from different political parties is yet to come but many parties have given their recommendations. On the basis of those, we are processing the whole thing and, I think, we are holding an all party meeting soon.

* Not recorded.